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# editorials

## Burglaries Abroad

Because of repeated revelations of burglaries and illegal spying by intelligence agencies, Americans may not be surprised to learn that the Central Intelligence Agency has bugged and burglarized the homes or offices of Americans abroad. Yet the latest disclosure adds to a shocking pile of evidence of the abuse of power and abuse of the Constitution.

The Socialist Workers Party, which is suing the CIA for damages for alleged illegal harassment, managed to obtain an affidavit as part of the suit from CIA Director George A. Bush. In it, Mr. Bush conceded the burglaries and electronic espionage against Americans in foreign countries, but gave no details, did not say to whether the activities were continuing and contended, in a legal memorandum, that a separate classified statement contained state secrets that were exempt from disclosure.

This is another use of the argument for national security to hide illegal governmental actions. And the actions were illegal. The Constitution follows Americans abroad as far as operations of their own Government are concerned, and if domestic laws against burglary do not, then it must be noted that foreign countries also have laws against burglary, and their laws were broken. They will not be impressed by the CIA's claim of American security. Americans themselves ought to be distressed that they have not been safe from such tactics by their own Government, at home or abroad.